

CLAIMS SHOWING AMENDMENTS MADE IN AUGUST 4, 2000 AMENDMENT

14. (amended) In a network having at least a first data source/sink and a second data source/sink coupled together by a physical medium, a method for determining at least one protocol capability of the second data source/sink, comprising:

placing first data pulses onto the physical medium, electrical characteristics of the first data pulses indicating a first protocol capability of the first source/sink;

receiving the first data pulses in the second data source/sink;

transmitting second data pulses onto the physical medium from the second data source/sink, wherein electrical characteristics of the second data pulses indicate the first protocol capability when the second data source/sink has the first protocol capability, wherein electrical characteristics of the second data pulses indicate a second protocol capability when the second data source/sink has the second protocol capability;

detecting whether the second pulses indicate the first protocol capability or the second protocol capability; and

establishing communication with the second data source/sink using the first protocol if the second data pulses indicate the first protocol capability and using the second protocol if the second data pulses indicate the second protocol capability.

15. (amended) In a network having at least a first data source/sink and a second data source/sink coupled together by a physical medium, a method for determining a communication protocol capability for data for transmission over the physical medium, comprising:

receiving first data pulses over the physical medium;

determining whether electrical characteristics of the first data pulses indicate a first communication protocol capability;

selectively outputting second data pulses in response to the first data pulses, wherein the second data pulses are output if the second data source/sink operates in accordance with the first communication protocol capability; and

preventing output of the second data pulses if the second data source/sink does not operation in accordance with the first communication protocol capability.

23. (amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the data is communicated between the first data source/sink and the second data source/sink in accordance with a protocol selected

from the group consisting of: isochronous token ring, [isochronouse] isochronous Ethernet, non-isochronous Ethernet, FDDI-II, and X.25

29. (amended) A method for communicating data between a first data source/sink and a second data source/sink, the method comprising the steps of:

communicating data between the first data source/sink and the second data source/sink in accordance with a first communication protocol;

exchanging information between the first data source/sink and the second data source/sink, wherein the information is exchanged in the form of data pulses, wherein electrical characteristics of the data pulses [that] indicate[s] protocol capabilities of the first and/or second data source/sinks;

reconfiguring the first and second data source/sinks; and

communicating data between the first data source/sink and the second data source/sink in accordance with a second communication protocol.

41. (amended) A method for communicating data between a first data source/sink and a second data source/sink, the method comprising the steps of:

exchanging information between the first data source/sink and the second data source/sink, wherein the information is exchanged in the form of data pulses, wherein electrical characteristics of the data pulses [that] indicate[s] protocol capabilities of the first and/or second data sources/sinks, wherein the protocol capabilities of the first and second data sources/sinks include at least first and second protocol capabilities;

communicating data between the first data source/sink and the second data source/sink in accordance with a first communication protocol at a first point in time;

configuring the first and second data source/sinks to operate in accordance with a second communication protocol; and

communicating data between the first data source/sink and the second data source/sink in accordance with the second communication protocol.

Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the art of the record, whether considered alone or in combination, and that all other matters have addressed by this and the prior submissions.

No new matter has been added. If there are any questions regarding this amendment, Applicant's attorney requests an opportunity to discuss such questions with the Examiner by way of a telephone interview.

Please charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0251.

Respectfully submitted



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, postage prepaid, to the Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks, this 23 day of September, 2002.

